IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 14, 17, 19 and 21-23 as shown below, and please cancel claims 4, 11, 18, 24 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

2.   (currently amended) An energy service business system comprising

a database which stores past data about ~~the~~ an energy consumption of equipment of a facility before taking energy-saving measures by installing energy-saving equipment;

measuring means which measures ~~the~~ present data of the energy consumption of said energy-saving equipment of the facility after taking the energy-saving measures; and

calculating means which calculates ~~the~~ energy curtailment quantities before and after taking the energy-saving measures by installing the energy-saving equipment ~~incorporating measurement data measured by said measuring means via a communication line and comparing said measurement data and the past data stored in said database~~;

wherein said past data in said database are stored in a form correlated with attribute data ~~regarding~~ of a variable ~~factors~~ characteristic of the energy consumption of said equipment of said facility before taking the energy-saving measures which

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includes at least one of temperature, humidity and an operating condition including at least one of a production quantity and a frequency of batch processing;

wherein said measuring means ~~is for measuring said measurement data as correlated~~ measures said present data of said energy-saving equipment of said facility together with said attribute data; and

wherein said calculating means retrieves said past data ~~with which~~ having said attribute data ~~agree~~ within a set allowable range ~~, and compares said~~ corresponding to said measured present data having said attribute data for said energy-saving equipment of said facility, and calculates the energy curtailment quantities by comparing said retrieved past data having said attribute data and said ~~measurement~~ measured present data having said attribute data.

3. (currently amended) An energy service business system according to claim 2, wherein said calculating means retrieves a plurality of said past data corresponding to a plurality of attribute data approximating said measured attribute data; performing calculation for estimating past data corresponding to said measured attribute data from said plurality of past data; and ~~compares~~ calculates the energy curtailment quantities by comparing the thus calculated past estimated data and said ~~measurement~~ measured present data.

Claim 4 (canceled)

5. (previously presented) An energy service business system according to claim 2, wherein said calculating means calculates the amount of curtailment of the energy costs on the basis of said energy curtailment quantity, and issues a bill demanding payment of an amount obtained by multiplying said amount of curtailment by a predetermined ratio.

6.   (currently amended) An energy service business system according to claim 5, wherein said ratio is determined with reference to-the operating hours or the operating rate of said energy-saving object-equipment of said facility.

7.   (original) An energy service business system according to claim 6, where:

if the total amount of the fixed costs such as depreciation and tax and tariffs for a single fiscal year for taking energy-saving measures and the variable costs such as maintenance cost of energy-saving equipment is Q, the annual amount of curtailment -of energy costs is P, and α and β are positive coefficients (where $\alpha > \beta$), said energy service enterprise receives:

X1% of the curtailment amount of energy costs when $P \geq \alpha Q$;

X2% of the curtailment amount of energy costs when $\beta Q \leq P < \alpha Q$ (where, X1 < X2); and

a predetermined amount when $P < \beta Q$.

8.   (currently amended) An energy service business method comprising the steps of installing an energy-saving equipment with the-an installation cost thereof paid by an energy service enterprise; measuring the-data of an energy consumption of said object-equipment of a facility after installation of said energy-saving equipment in the facility; determining the-a difference of the-a resultant measured value from the energy consumption data of said object-equipment before installation of said energy-saving equipment previously stored in the-a database; calculating the-an amount of curtailment of the energy costs on the basis of the thus determined difference; and allowing said energy service enterprise to collect said installation cost from said amount of curtailment; and further comprising the steps of

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storing said energy consumption <u>data of equipment of the facility</u> before taking energy-saving measures in said database, together with attribute data of <u>a</u> variable ~~factors~~ <u>characteristic</u> of the energy consumption <u>of the equipment of the facility</u> <u>which includes at least one of temperature, humidity and an operating condition</u> <u>including at least one of a production quantity and a frequency of batch processing;</u> <u>and</u> measuring the energy consumption <u>data of the equipment of the facility including</u> <u>the energy-saving equipment</u> after taking said energy-saving measures, together with said attribute data; ~~and~~ <u>wherein the amount of curtailment of energy costs is</u> calculated <u>by</u> comparing said measured ~~value~~ <u>energy consumption data having said</u> <u>attribute data</u> with the <u>stored</u> energy consumption <u>data</u> before taking said energy-saving measures with which said attribute data agree within a set allowable range ~~corresponding to said measured attribute data~~.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10.   (currently amended) An energy service business method comprising the steps of applying energy-saving measures to ~~an object~~ equipment <u>of a facility by</u> <u>installing energy-saving equipment</u> with the cost thereof paid by an energy service enterprise; measuring ~~the~~ <u>data of an</u> energy consumption after taking the energy-saving measures; calculating ~~the~~ <u>an</u> amount of curtailment of energy costs by comparing the thus measured value with the energy consumption <u>data</u> before taking the energy-saving measures previously stored in ~~the~~ <u>a</u> database; and allowing said energy service enterprise to receive at least a part of said amount of curtailment; and further comprising the steps of storing said energy consumption <u>data</u> before taking energy-saving measures in said database, together with attribute data of <u>a</u> variable ~~factors~~ <u>characteristic</u> of the energy consumption <u>of the equipment of the facility</u> <u>which includes at least one temperature, humidity and an operating condition</u>

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including at least one of a production quantity and a frequency of batch processing; and measuring the energy consumption data after taking said energy-saving measures by installing the energy-saving equipment in the facility , together with said attribute data; and wherein the amount of curtailment of energy costs is calculated by comparing said measured value energy consumption data having said attribute data with the stored energy consumption data before taking said energy-saving measures with which said attribute data agree within a set allowable range corresponding to said measured attribute data.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 10, wherein said amount received by the energy service enterprise is determined with reference to the operating hours or the operating rate of said object the equipment of the facility.

13. (previously presented) An energy service business method according to claim 10, wherein, when the quantity of energy curtailment is smaller than a predetermined reference value, said energy service enterprise performs maintenance or improvement without compensation of the equipment to which the energy-saving measures are applied so as to satisfy the reference value.

14. (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 10, wherein:

if the total amount of the fixed costs such as depreciation and tax and tariffs for a single fiscal year for taking energy-saving measures and the variable costs such as maintenance cost of energy-saving equipment is Q, the annual amount of

curtailment of energy costs is P, and α and β are positive coefficients (where $\alpha > \beta$), said energy service enterprise receives:

X1% of the curtailment amount of energy costs when $P \geq \alpha Q$;

X2% of the curtailment amount of energy costs when $\beta Q \leq P < \alpha Q$ (where, X1 < X2); and

a predetermined amount when $P < \beta Q$.

15.　(original) An energy service business method according to claim 14, wherein said X2 is calculated by the following formula:

X2 = X1 + $(\alpha - P/Q)(100 - X1)/(\alpha - \beta)$.

Claim 16 (canceled)

17.　(currently amended) An energy service business method comprising the steps of drafting energy-saving measures by ~~the~~ an energy service enterprise or a related organization thereof; assuring, under at least one set condition of an ~~energy-saving object~~ a facility, a quantity of curtailment of energy consumption available when taking energy-saving measures in accordance with the thus drafted measures; measuring ~~the~~ data of an energy consumption after taking the energy-saving measures by installing energy-saving equipment in the facility; calculating ~~the~~ an amount of curtailment of energy costs by comparing the thus measured value with ~~the~~ data of an energy consumption before taking the energy-saving measures previously stored in a database, and periodically confirming the assured quantity of curtailment; and further comprising the steps of storing said energy consumption data before taking the energy-saving measures in said database, together with attribute data of a variable ~~factors~~ characteristic of the energy consumption data of the equipment of the facility which includes at least one of temperature, humidity and

an operating condition including at least one of a production quantity and a frequency of batch processing; measuring the energy consumption data after taking said energy-saving measures, together with said attribute data; and comparing said measured value energy consumption data of the energy-saving equipment of the facility having said attribute data with the stored energy consumption data before taking said energy-saving measures with which said attribute data agree within a set allowable range corresponding to said measured attribute data.

Claim 18 (canceled)

19.   (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 17, wherein said at least one set condition includes conditions determined as to variable factors having an effect on curtailment of the energy consumption such as the operating rate or operating hours, operating conditions including production quantity, and frequency of batch processing of the energy-saving object equipment of the facility.

20.   (previously presented) An energy service business method according to claim 19, wherein said at least one set condition has an allowable range.

21.   (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 17, wherein said energy service enterprise receives a compensation in an amount corresponding to the quantity of energy curtailment in excess of the an assured value in of at least one of a reward for assuring a quantity of energy curtailment, or as and a cost to be appropriated for maintenance or and improvement.

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22. (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 21, wherein the amount received by said energy service enterprise is determined with reference to the operating hours or the operating rate of ~~said object~~ the equipment of the facility.

23. (currently amended) An energy service business method according to claim 21, wherein, when the quantity of energy curtailment is under a predetermined reference value, said energy service enterprise performs at least one of maintenance and improvement of ~~the~~ an equipment subjected to energy-saving measures without compensation so as to satisfy the reference value.

Claims 24 and 25 (canceled)